

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 01053 061804Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /039 W

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6509

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 1053

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SOPN, GY

SUBJECT: ACTING LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION JANET JAGAN ON MIRROR'S
FUTURE INVIEW OF GEORGETOWN'S ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF DURING BREAK IN PARLIAMENT SESSION APRIL 5, JANET JAGAN, ACTING LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP), STATED THAT GEORGETOWN'S SEVERE ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS HAD CAUSED THE MIRROR, THE OPPOSITION'S NEWSPAPER, TO CEASE PRINTING AS OF FRIDAY, MARCH 31. MS. JAGAN RELATED THAT THE NEW GUYANA COMPANY, WHICH IS OWNED BY THE PPP, HAS BEEN UNABLE TO PRINT THE MIRROR OR ANYTHING ELSE. SHE STATED THAT SHE WAS NOT SURE HOW LONG THE MIRROR COULD AVOID COLLAPSE UNDER THESE CONDITIONS.

2. COMMENT: EVEN BEFORE THE RECENT MASSIVE BLACKOUTS THAT HAVE HIT THE GEORGETOWN AREA, THE MIRROR WAS LOSING MONEY, DESPITE CONCESSIONARY SALES OF NEWSPRINT FROM THE SOVIET UNION. IN THE PAST, THE GOVERNMENT OWNED GUYANA NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS LIMITED COMPANY HAS HELPED TO KEEP THE MIRROR AFLOAT WITH LOANS OF EQUIPMENT AND NEWSPRINT. THE COLLAPSE OF THE MIRROR WOULD

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PAGE 02 GEORGE 01053 061804Z

LEAVE THE ENTIRE JOURNALISTIC FIELD, SAVE FOR THE WEEKLY CATHOLIC STANDARD AND A FEW MIMEOGRAPHED TRACTS, ENTIRELY IN PRO-GOG HANDS.
BURKE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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